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# Major-General William Stark Rosecrans.

## Hero of Iuka, Corinth and Stone River, and Father of the Army of the Cumberland.

BY L. W. MULHANE.

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Los Angeles Cal

With many Thanks & best wishes

U. S. Rogers

Bvt Maj.r Gen.l U.S.A.

June 3. 1895

# Memorial of

# Major-General William Stark Rosecrans.

Born in Kingston Township, Delaware County, Ohio,

September 6, 1819.

Died at Rosecrans, near Los Angeles, California,

March 11, 1898.

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# PREFACE.

THIS little sketch of the life of Major-General Rosecrans is compiled chiefly from current accounts of his life and from an acquaintance first formed in the house of his brother, Bishop Rosecrans of Columbus, Ohio. The author feels that "the present generation stands too close to the monument to take a just view of either its height or its beautiful proportions and that men shall have to get away from it a generation or two in order to understand its grand effect upon the surroundings, and the measure of its shadow"; and hence prints these few pages only as a tribute to his memory and a souvenir that may assist in keeping green the remembrance of the Christian warrior's noble life.

L. W. MULHANE.

Mt. Vernon, Ohio, March 31, 1898.

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## CHAPTER I.

### HIS BIRTH, LIFE AND DEATH.

THE last survivor of Ohio's great military quartet, — Grant and Sherman, Sheridan and Rosecrans, — has been summoned from earth and

> "The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
> The soldier's last tattoo."

His war record is written on the pages of American history, and as time goes on will be brighter and greater and better known, when time-servers and applause-seekers have had their day. To those who had the pleasure and honor of knowing the old hero in the avenues of private life, the news of his death came accompanied by the one thought that

> "An empire is his sepulchre
> His epitaph is Fame."

William Stark Rosecrans was born in Kingston Township, Delaware County, Ohio, September 6, 1819. The name Rosecrans, originally Rosenkrantz, is Dutch and means a Crown or Wreath of Roses. The paternal ancestors of the subject of this memorial were Dutch, coming to America from Amsterdam and settling in Pennsylvania near Wilkesbarre. In 1808, Crandall

Rosecrans moved to Ohio, locating in Kingston Township, Delaware County, near the line of Licking County. He was married to Jemima Hopkins, a relative of Stephen Hopkins, Rhode Island's signer of the Declaration of Independence, of whom John Adams says: "The pleasantest part of my labors for the four years I spent in Congress, from 1774 to 1778, was in the naval committee. Mr. Lee and Mr. Gasdsen were sensible men and very cheerful, but Gov. Hopkins of Rhode Island, above 70 years of age, kept us all alive. Upon business his experience and judgment were very useful." Hopkins is an Irish name and the ancestors of General Rosecrans' mother originally came from Ireland; so that in his veins were mingled Dutch and Irish blood. His father, Crandall, was a Captain in one of General Harrison's light-horse brigades in our second war with England. He received his second name, Stark, in memory of the famous Revolutionary General Stark of New Hampshire, many of the people of that State having moved to Ohio, in the vicinity of General Rosecrans' birthplace.

On December 5, 1894, the writer officiated at the burial of an aged lady near Brandon, Knox County, not far from the Licking County line, and in his note book is the following entry: — "Death of Mrs. Hulda Collopy, aged 77. She was a granddaughter of the Revolutionary Chapmans of Vermont and New Hampshire. Her father served in the war of 1812. In her childhood days she was a schoolmate of General and Bishop Rosecrans. She became a Catholic on her deathbed, influenced all her life by the thought of these

two childhood companions embracing the Catholic Faith."

When the future General was yet quite young, his father moved across to Licking County, taking up his residence in the village of Homer, and, for a number of years, managed the village tavern, at the same time following farming.

William attended, for a few months of each year, at the log school-house of the village, acquiring the rudiments of education. About 1833, a Lancaster merchant, George Arnold, opened a general country store at Utica, Licking County, a few miles from Homer, and young Rosecrans went into the store as a clerk. With him, associated as a clerk, was J. D. Martin, still living and a venerable citizen of Lancaster, Ohio. Arnold moved his store to Mansfield in the course of a year or two, Rosecrans accompanying him. One conversant with the facts says: "While at Mansfield young Rosecrans was the driver for T. W. Bartley, the future Supreme Court Judge of Ohio, on a trip to Columbus. He proved to be an intelligent and interesting talker and so pleased Bartley that he urged him to obtain an education." With this in view, Rosecrans and his father opened a correspondence with the Congressman from that district and finally he was successful in obtaining an appointment to West Point. In the mean time he had spent some time at Kenyon College, Gambier, near Mt. Vernon, preparing himself for the West Point examination. He entered that institution in 1837, and graduated in 1842, standing fifth in general merit and third in mathematics in a

class which included Longstreet, Van Dorn, McLaws, Lovell, R. H. Anderson and Gustavus Smith, afterward of the Confederate Army; and Pope, Doubleday and Newton of the Union Army. He entered the service as Brevet 2nd Lieutenant of Engineers, and after a year as Assistant Engineer, building fortifications at Hampton Roads, Virginia, he returned to West Point in 1843 as Assistant Professor of Engineering. In 1847 he was again put in active sevice at Fort Adams, Newport, Rhode Island, to superintend some repairs on that fortification. April 1, 1854, he resigned,

W. S. ROSECRANS, AS LIEUTENANT.

being then First Lieutenant of Engineers, journeyed to Cincinnati, and began business as a consulting engineer and architect; but while he acquired an enviable reputation in his profession, his earnings were scanty.

In 1855 he took charge of the Cannel Coal Company, Coal River, West Virginia, becoming also, in 1856, president of the Coal River Navigation Company; and in 1857 he organized the Preston Coal Oil Company for the manufacture of kerosene.

### THE CIVIL WAR.

At the beginning of the Civil War he volunteered as aide to Gen. George B. McClellan, who was then commanding the department of the Ohio, and assisted in organizing and equipping home guards. He was appointed chief engineer of Ohio, with the rank of colonel, on June 9, 1861, and on June 10 was made colonel of the Twenty-third Ohio Volunteers. Soon after organizing Camp Chase at Columbus, O., he received a commission as brigadier-general in the regular army to date from May 16, 1861; he took the field with command of a provisional brigade under Gen. McClellan in western Virginia. His first important action was that of Rich Mountain, which he won on July 11, 1861. After Gen. McClellan's call to higher command, Rosecrans succeeded him, on July 25, in the department of the Ohio, which consisted of western Virginia, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. He had command of the national forces, defeated Gen. John B. Floyd at Carnifex Ferry, September 10, 1861, and thwarted all Lee's attempts to gain a footing in western Virginia; and when he went into winter quarters at Wheeling, and announced that he had cleared West Virginia of organized Confederate forces, he received the thanks of the Legislature of that State and of Ohio for his management of the campaign.

One of the queerest experiences of military history was his work in the spring of 1862, when he found and extricated Gen. Blenker, who had actually lost himself and his command in the mountains of West Virginia and whose whereabouts were unknown to his superior officers. In May, Rosecrans was sent to Gen. Halleck, who gave him command of the right wing before Corinth.

### BATTLES OF IUKA AND CORINTH.

He succeeded Gen. Pope in the command of the Army of the Mississippi and, with four brigades, fought the battle of Iuka, September 19, where he defeated Gen. Price; after which he returned to Corinth, where, anticipating an attack, he fortified the town, and on October 3 and 4 defeated the Confederate army under Van Dorn and Price. On the first day of the battle the enemy was simply checked, and early on the morning of the second day the whole rebel army assaulted Rosecrans' forces. The fighting was fierce, the enemy charging almost into the town. Once, the Union troops came near giving way, but Rosecrans rallied them in person and finally won the day. After this battle he received a letter from Lincoln couched in these words:

"I have received the reports of the various commanders. I have now to tell you that the magnitude of the stake — the battle and the results — become more than ever apparent. Upon the issue of this fight depended the possession of West Tennessee, and perhaps even the fate of operations in Kentucky. The entire available force of the rebels in Mississippi, save

a few garrisons and a small reserve, attacked you. They were commanded by Van Dorn, Price and others in person. They numbered 40,000 men — almost double your own numbers. You fought them into the position we desired on the 3d, punishing them terribly; and on the 4th, three hours after the infantry went into action, they were completely beaten. You pursued his retreating columns forty miles in force with infantry and sixty-nine miles with cavalry, and were ready to follow him to Mobile, if necessary, had you received orders. I congratulate you on these decisive results. In the name of the Government and the people, I thank you. I beg you to unite with me in giving humble thanks to the Great Master of all our victories."

Rosecrans was much impressed by Sheridan's fight against the Confederate cavalry under Chalmers at Corinth and persistently and successfully urged the authorities at Washington to give him a command in which his ability and qualities would be more widely useful. This fact gave rise to the saying so commonly heard in after years, that Rosecrans "discovered" Phil. Sheridan.

On October 25 he went to Cincinnati, where he found orders awaiting him to supersede Gen. Don Carlos Buell and was made commander of the

DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND.

which was to consist of whatever territory south of the Cumberland he should take from the enemy.

As Buell's successor, Rosecrans did an enormous quantity of work, the advantages of which were enjoyed

by the Federal forces to the end of the war. He established bases and lines of communication, established Inspector General's and topographical departments and engineer and pioneer corps, which he developed to a high state of efficiency. On October 30 he began his march to Nashville, and on November 5 he defeated a Confederate attack on that city.

### STONE RIVER.

After providing twenty days' rations at Nashville, he advanced on the enemy under Gen. Bragg, on Stone River, December 30, 1862. This battle lasted four days. A current account of it says:

"The right wing was commanded by Gen. A. McDowell McCook, a brave and gallant officer, and he had under him as brave a corps of men as ever faced an enemy. Early on the morning of the first day's battle McCook's corps was fiercely attacked by the enemy in force and driven pell mell to the rear, but not without first making a most determined and dreadful fight, suffering heavy loss.

"This attack of the enemy commenced about 6 o'clock a. m., before daylight, and before many of McCook's men had finished their bacon and coffee.

"The heavy firing on the right naturally attracted the attention of Rosecrans, who had been closely watching the movements of Bragg. About 9 o'clock on the morning of that day he saw that McCook's men were falling back rapidly and in disorder, and that something must be done and be done quickly to check the enemy's advance on his right wing. If not, his entire

army would be routed. It was a storm of shot and shell in which the right wing of the Union army was being driven like straws before a cyclone. Realizing the dreadful position into which the rebels were speedily crowding him, Rosecrans, unattended by guard or staff, rode quickly into the thickest of the fight, and, drawing his sword, waved it over his head and yelled to his retreating men to halt, face and fight the enemy.

"The sight of 'Old Rosy' in the thick of the fight, exposing his life every moment, so inspired McCook's brave but broken ranks with sudden enthusiasm and determination that the retreating line halted, 'about faced,' and delivered a volley of musketry into the enemy's ranks that staggered and checked their further advance.

"Two days later the battle was renewed by a furious assault on the national lines, but after sharp fighting the enemy was driven back with heavy loss.

"Unwilling to engage in a general action, the Confederate army retreated to the line of Duck River, and the Army of the Cumberland occupied Murfreesboro. This battle was one of the bloodiest in the war, and resulted in a loss of 9,511 men by the national forces and 9,236 by the Confederates. As soon as Vicksburg was beyond the reach of possible succor from Bragg, by a brilliant flank movement Rosecrans dislodged him from his intrenched camps at Shelbyville and Tullahoma, and in fifteen days, June 24 to July 7, 1863, drove him out of the middle of Tennessee. As soon as the railway was repaired he occupied

Bridgeport and Stevenson. From July 7 to August 14 railway bridges and trestles were rebuilt, the road and rolling stock put in order, supplies pushed forward

BRIG. GEN. ROSECRANS.

Taken after the Battle of Stone River.

and demonstrations made to conceal the point of crossing the Cumberland Mountains and the Tennessee River."

## CHICKAMAUGA.

Rosecrans was constantly urged from Washington to dislodge the enemy from the mountains. But he delayed, repairing his railroad communications, asking for reinforcements, and waiting for corn to ripen for

food and forage. He reached the river on the evening of August 20 and the army, except the cavalry, safely crossed. Bragg withdrew from Chattanooga and retired behind Chickamauga until the arrival of Longstreet's corps. Thus the first great move of Rosecrans' campaign was accomplished.

He then began to concentrate his forces with the utmost dispatch to meet the inevitable combat. The battle was commenced on September 19 by an attempt to gain possession of the road to Chattanooga, continued through the day, and resulted in Rosecrans defeating the attempt and planting Gen. Thomas' corps, with Johnson's and Palmer's divisions, firmly upon that road; but during the night Longstreet came up and was immediately given command of the Confederate left.

On the following morning the contest was renewed by a determined attack on the national left and center. At this moment, by the misinterpretation of an order, Gen. Thomas J. Wood's division was withdrawn, leaving a gap in the center, into which Gen. Longstreet pressed his troops, forced Jefferson C. Davis' two brigades out of the line, and cut off Philip H. Sheridan's three brigades of the right, all of which, after a gallant but unsuccessful effort to stem this charge, were ordered to reform on the Dry Valley road at the first good standing ground in rear of the position they had lost. The two divisions of Horatio P. Van Cleve and Davis, going to succor the right center, were partly shattered by this break, and four or five regiments were scattered through the woods, but most of the

stragglers stopped with Sheridan's and Davis' commands. The remainder, nearly seven divisions, were unbroken, and continued the fight. The gallant Gen. George H. Thomas, whose orders the night before, reiterated a few moments before this disaster, were to hold his position at all hazards, continued to fight with seven divisions, while Gen. Rosecrans undertook to make such dispositions as would most effectually avert disaster in case the enemy should turn the position by advancing on the Dry Valley road, and capture the remaining commissary stores, then in a valley two or three miles to the west. Fortunately, this advance was not made, the commissary train was pushed into Chattanooga, the cavalry, ordered down, closed the ways behind the national right, and Gen. Thomas, after the most desperate fighting, drew back at night to Rossville in pursuance of orders from Gen. Rosecrans. On the 22d the army was concentrated at Chattanooga. The battle was a victory to the Confederates only in name, for Chattanooga, the objective point of the campaign, remained in the possession of the national forces. The total national loss, in killed, wounded and missing, was 16,179; the Confederate loss, 17,804.

Shortly after the battle General Rosecrans issued the following letter, which old veterans love to refer to as a summing up of the great campaign under his command:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND.

CHATTANOOGA, Oct. 2, 1863.

Army of the Cumberland: — You have made a grand and successful campaign; you have driven the rebels from Middle Tennessee; you crossed a mountain range, placed yourselves on the banks of a broad river, crossed it in the face of a powerful, opposing army, and crossed two other great moun-

tain ranges at the only practicable passes, some forty miles between extremes. You concentrated in the face of superior numbers; fought the combined armies of Bragg, which you drove from Shelbyville to Tullahoma; of Johnston's army from Mississippi, and the tried veterans of Longstreet's corps, and for two days held them at bay, giving them blow for blow, with heavy interest. When you withdrew in the face of overpowering numbers, to occupy the point for which you set out — Chattanooga.

You have accomplished the work of the campaign; you hold the key of East Tennessee, of Northern Georgia and of the enemies' mines of coal and nitre. Let these achievements console you for the regret you experience that the arrival of fresh hostile troops forbade your remaining on the field to renew the battle; for the right of burying your gallant dead and caring for your brave companions, who lay wounded on the field. The losses you have sustained, though heavy, are slight, considering the odds against you, and the stake you have won.

The General Commanding earnestly begs every officer and soldier of this army to unite with him in thanking Almighty God for His favor to us. He presents his hearty thanks and congratulations to all the officers and soldiers of this command, for their energy, patience and perseverance, and the undaunted courage displayed by those who fought with such unflinching resolution.

Neither the history of this war, nor probably the annals of any battle, furnish a loftier example of obstinate bravery and enduring resistance to superior numbers — when troops having exhausted their ammunition, resorted to the bayonet many times to hold their positions against such odds, as did our left and centre, comprising troops from all the corps, on the afternoon of the 20th of September, at the battle of Chickamauga.

(Signed) W. S. Rosecrans,
Major-General Commanding.

Gen. Rosecrans was relieved of his command on October 23, and he was assigned to the department of the Missouri in January, 1864, with headquarters in St. Louis, where he conducted the military operations

that terminated in the defeat and expulsion from the State of the invading Confederate forces under Gen. Price. He was placed on waiting orders at Cincinnati on December 10, 1864, mustered out of the volunteer service January 15, 1866, and resigned from the army on March 28, 1867, after receiving the brevet of major-general in the regular army for his services at the battle of Stone River.

In 1865, he was offered the Union nomination for Governor of Ohio, but declined. In July, 1868, he was appointed minister to Mexico and held that office until June, 1869, when he returned to the United States and, later, declined the Democratic nomination for Governor of Ohio, expressing views antagonistic to the platform. He advocated the policy of having bank notes made payable in coin on demand; he also favored an early return to the specie basis and took decided ground for free trade, civil service reform and State regulation of the franchise.

Subsequently he resumed the practice of engineering, and in 1872-3 was engaged in an effort to initiate the construction of a vast system of narrow gauge railways in Mexico, at the instance of President Juarez. He became president, in 1871, of the San Jose Mining Company, and in 1878 of the Safety Powder Company in San Francisco. He was also intrusted with a charter for an inter-oceanic railway from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific, made by the Mexican republic under considerations urged by him when envoy to Mexico, and he was requested to use his influence to induce American railway building skill and capital to under-

take the work. He memorialized Congress to cultivate friendly and intimate commercial relations with Mexico, and to assist and encourage the material progress of that country, and at the instance of American and English railway builders, and of President Juarez, he went to Mexico. He had for fifteen months so ably discussed in the newspapers the benefits of railway construction to Mexico, that the Legislatures of seventeen of the Mexican States passed unanimous resolutions urging their national Congress to enact the legislation advocated, and the Governors of six other States sent official recommendations to the same effect.

In 1876 Gen. Rosecrans declined the Democratic nomination for Congress from Nevada.

### IN CONGRESS.

In 1880, he was elected as a Democrat to the lower house of Congress, from California; carrying a strong Republican district. In the House he was Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, having been re-elected in 1882. June 8, 1885, he was appointed by President Cleveland, whose warm friend and admirer he had been, Register of the Treasury. March 2, 1889, he was by act of Congress put on the retired list of the U. S. Army, with the rank of brigadier-general. The act reads:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. S. of America in Congress assembled: That the President be, and he is hereby authorized to nominate, and, by and with the advice

and consent of the Senate, to appoint William S. Rosecrans, late major-general of U. S. Volunteers, and brigadier-general in the regular army of the U. S., to the position of brigadier-general in the army of the U. S., and to place him upon the retired list of the army as of that grade (the retired list being thereby increased in number to that extent); and all laws and parts of laws in conflict herewith are suspended for this purpose only."

A rancorous debate ensued on its passage, owing to the fact that when a similar bill placing Grant upon the retired list was up for passage, Rosecrans, then a member of Congress and Chairman on Military Affairs had persistently opposed it. During the debate, many members who had served in the Army of the Cumberland, came valiantly to the defense of the old hero, and as one said: "We can afford to forget what Gen. Rosecrans may have said, but we can not afford to forget what he did." The bill finally passed without division.

Rosecrans retained office as Register of the Treasury under President Harrison, until failing health forced him, a few years ago, to seek repose in the climate of California, where, on his ranch some ten miles from Los Angeles, he calmly awaited the end of life.

### HIS LIFE IN CALIFORNIA.

After the war, Gen. Rosecrans, undecided where to settle, first took a journey to the Pacific coast. Regular army men are noted for their love of the coast.

There are more retired officers living in California

than in any other State. Hancock, Sheridan and Sherman were all in love with California's gorgeous climate, its blue skies, its perennial vegetation, the infinite peace that settles upon the land, the exuberance of its soil and the mysterious Pacific, with its wonderful flora and fauna. General Grant was making preparations to end his days in California when he fell ill. All along the coast, from Seattle to San Diego, are to be found old soldiers spending their declining years in surroundings the very opposite from those that accompany the life of the fighting man.

Gen. Rosecrans came to California in 1867. At that time San Francisco had yet all the bizarre aspects of a city near the gold mines. Southern California was a wilderness of sand and sage brush, tangles of cacti, fields of alfalfa and other vegetation native to the soil. Gen. Rosecrans had determind beforehand to buy land in California, but when he made inquiries he was amazed to find great unanimity of opinion to the effect that beyond the mid-line of the state there was nothing worth having.

### ARRIVAL AT LOS ANGELES.

He was still "looking around" when good luck threw him in the way of Captain Banning, one of the pioneers of southern California. Captain Banning persuaded him to take a trip on his boat to San Pedro. On the four days' voyage the General was struck with the absence of harbors all along the rugged coast. He was discouraged. Could commerce ever go there? When he arrived at San Pedro and went into the

interior he felt that the San Franciscans were right — that the country would never be anything but a pasture. However, he visited Los Angeles, then a settlement of a few cheap houses. On his way he stopped at an old adobe "half-way" house, and, standing on the eminence, he cast his eyes over a stretch of country 1,000 miles in area, as it seemed to him.

Speaking of that sight he said, a little time before his death:

"I saw at a glance around me all this glorious valley, with the mountains forming three-fourths of a circle to the back and on both sides of me, and the ocean in front, sounding then and eternally. It was a brilliant day, a specimen day of the 300 perfect ones we have in this climate. I thought I had never seen such a sky, nor such colors in the atmosphere along near the ground and over against the mountains. Here, I said to myself, I will buy land and build me a home, for if water can be developed, I may be certain to have neighbors in the not too distant future."

### DWINDLING OF HIS ESTATE.

That view settled it. He would buy land there from the government and from the handful of unsuccessful pioneers who were already convinced that the country could never amount to anything. And he did. He acquired for a song an estate of 14,000 acres. Most of that superb property the General lost in the mining holes of Nevada. At present all that is left of it is a ranch of 1,100 acres. But that much was sufficient to gratify his passion for farming.

By degrees his house grew up to be a very large and pleasant abode. The mansion is not really a house, but a collection of houses of a rude exterior but comfortable enough within.

The General farmed wisely after the theory of the Southern Californian. "Measure the value of your land," says Senator Jones of Nevada to the settler in Southern California, "by what it will bring in wheat and barley." All but 300 of the 1,100 acres are sown in those cereals. The 300 acres bear deciduous and citrus fruits, eucalyptus trees for fuel, a potato field, and a strawberry bed.

### HIS LAST DAYS.

Here, with his son Carl, he passed the last days of his life in peace and serenity. His home was a modest one. There were some family portraits, notably one of his wife, whom he married in the forties and who was the daughter of Judge Hegeman, a prominent New York lawyer. She died during his official life in Washington. In his home, also, were his old war mementoes, — maps, reports, flags and swords and a substantial library of scientific works. One of his favorite papers was the *Scientific American*. His last days were crowned, on Lætare Sunday, March 14, 1896, by a visit from Bishop Montgomery, accompanied by members of the clergy and laity of Los Angeles, who went down to his ranch to formally present him with the medal and address which the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, annually bestows on a Catholic layman noted for extraordinary devotion to Church or State. The medal bore on its obverse, in purple enameled letters, the usual legend,—

"Magna est Veritas et Prævalebit," — "Truth is Mighty and will Prevail"; the central field is taken up by the escutcheon of our country within a laurel wreath, all in high relief; the red, white, and blue shield is worked out with exquisite delicacy in enamel and precious stones. The reverse of the disk is much the same. Another inscription, "Presented by the University of Notre Dame," in black enamelled letters, circles about the centre, on which is engraved Gen. Rosecrans' name. The address which accompanied the medal is on parchment and was printed by the University Press and illuminated by the Sisters of St. Mary's Academy. The illumination is exquisitely done. The national colors are used in a very effective way, and the whole was a strikingly beautiful piece of work.

The words of the address were:

"Few men who have borne like you the rigors of war are privileged as you have been to enjoy so long the repose of peace. Still fewer are they who, laboring for so many years in eminent public station, still wear a shield not simply untainted by reproach but untarnished even by the breath of suspicion.

"Providence has granted you length of days in which to enjoy the fulness of honor. You are the last, as you are one of the greatest, of those noble chiefs who led our hosts to victory. Your name is set among the brightest traditions of the Republic; your services are writ in letters of imperishable glory upon our Country's tablet of honor; and unborn generations, children of these States whose union you labored so successfully to preserve, will be inspired

by your example and thrilled by the story of your genius and courage. It is not within the power of any man or any body of men to honor you whom the whole nation claims for its hero; but the University of Notre Dame offers you the highest distinction within its gift, in bestowing on you this year its Lætare Medal. Accept it as a symbol of the proud appreciation in which your Catholic fellow-citizens hold your distinguished public services. The Lætare Medal has been worn only by men and women whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity. It will be a joy to your fellow-citizens that you are now enrolled in that noble company which is worthy of you and which you will adorn. For in you are crowned the virtues of a Christian soldier — the generous response to duty, the unstinted service of laborious days and restless nights, the courage of a martyr and the gentleness of a hero.

"One of the noblest chapters of Catholic theology is that which teaches the duty of patriotism and whole-hearted devotion to the public weal. Catholics are among the first to recognize that duty and respond to it. But whenever a slanderous cry goes up from the camps of fanaticism; when men would proclaim the Church hostile to liberty and false to the principles of American government, she finds her best response and her strongest vindication in the lives of men like you."

After a lingering illness, a general breaking down of his constitution incident to old age, the General

passed away on the morning of March 11, 1898. The following Tuesday his body was brought to Los Angeles and escorted to the City Hall. The Lætare Medal, with the badges of the Loyal Legion, the Grand Army and the Army of the Potomac, adorned the breast of the old hero as he lay in state. The National Guard of California watched by the body continuously, with hourly reliefs. The casket was draped with the old headquarters flag of his command and upon it lay the sword presented by citizens of Cincinnati, inscribed with the words: "My mission among you is that of a fellow-citizen charged by the government to restore law and order."

The Associated Press gave this account of the funeral:

"The funeral of Major-General W. S. Rosecrans today was one of the most impressive and elaborate this city has ever witnessed. Thousands assembled to honor the dead warrior. Business was interrupted during the ceremonies.

"The remains were removed from the bier at the City Hall, where they had been lying in state, to the cathedral at an early hour, and in a quiet manner.

"The special military escort provided by Gen. Last accompanied the remains and resumed the watch in the cathedral.

"Promptly at 10 o'clock requiem high mass was celebrated at the cathedral, Right Reverened Bishop Montgomery officiating, assisted by members of the clergy from all parts of the diocese. The casket rested in front of the altar and upon it were many beautiful

and striking floral pieces. The decorations about the altar and throughout the cathedral were extremely beautiful and in great profusion. After the services, which lasted 40 minutes, the military took charge of the funeral. The column formed with Gen. Last and staff at its head. They were followed by a troop of cavalry, the Seventh Regiment Band, the signal corps, Colonel Berry and staff, companies A, C, F and I, Seventh Infantry, N. G. C., delegations of the Sons of Veterans, Confederates' Association, Grand Army of the Republic, Loyal Legion, and Union Veterans' League. Following them came the hearse and directly behind it a riderless horse was led.

"The family of the deceased rode in carriages, and followed the hearse, and behind these were many other vehicles, containing members of civic bodies and representatives of many organizations.

"The column marched south from the cathedral on Main street to Washington, thence to the cemetery.

"The services at the cemetery were brief. There was vocal music and short addresses by Rev. W. A. Knighton, Hon. F. Glaze, Capt. J. C. Oliver, F. W. Stein and F. H. Poindexter.

"At the conclusion of the services one of the infantry companies fired a salute of three volleys over the tomb, taps were sounded and the warrior was left to his rest.

Among many messages of condolence received by the family was one from President McKinley which spoke very touchingly of his regard for his former commander.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA.

CHICKAMAUGA is a sluggish little stream flowing from McLemore's Cove in Georgia, through Tennessee and finally emptying itself into the beautiful Tennessee River. This little river still bears its Indian name — Chickamauga (river of death) — and how significant since September 19 and 20, 1863, when near and about its banks was fought one of the greatest battles of modern times, a battle that will go down in history with Austerlitz, Waterloo, Marengo, and Gettysburg, a battle that a general engaged in it compares with Flodden Field, where both Surrey of England and James of Scotland believed the other army was vanquished and neither could claim a victory. Pages and volumes, tons of literature have been written about the great battle of Chickamauga and still the question remains a disputed one.

It is interesting to note that Gen. Rosecrans succeeded in command of the Army of the Cumberland another Ohio-born general, also a convert to the Catholic Church, Gen. Don Carlos Buell, born near Marietta, Ohio, and still living in the vicinity of Louisville, Kentucky. It is not our intention to enter into any elaborate or extended discussion of the merits

of Chickamauga's battle, but simply to state some facts that may perhaps assist the reader to better understand the disputed question. First, it is maintained that Chickamauga was not a Union defeat; second, Gen. Rosecrans was not properly sustained by the Washington authorities, notably Stanton, the famous war secretary; thirdly, that Rosecrans was not in favor with higher authorities on account of his political and religious beliefs, being a War Democrat and a Catholic. To the last assertion we give but little credence; possibly it entered into the history of those days, but, if so, only to a minor degree; and here we would call attention only to the other two. Was Chickamauga a Union defeat? Most emphatically, No! In defense of this I append an editorial that appeared some years ago in the columns of the *Columbus Dispatch*, for the reason that it states the question and answers it in most concise and clear terms:

### CHICKAMAUGA HISTORY REVIEWED

"The fields of Gettysburg and Chickamauga are especially worthy of adornment, not because more chivalrous courage was displayed on them than elsewhere, but because they mark not only important events, but critical periods in the great civil war. At Gettysburg it was demonstrated that a confederate army could not permanently occupy a free state. At Chickamauga it was shown that a federal army, after fighting its way for three hundred miles through a hostile country, could cross rivers, climb mountain ranges, contend for two days against superior num-

bers, and yet seize and hold an important city in the heart of the confederacy. After Gettysburg the Army of Northern Virginia, under Lee, lost all desire for offensive warfare; and the confederate general, D. H. Hill, says: "The olan of the Southern soldier was never seen after Chickamauga — that brilliant dash which had distinguished him on a hundred fields was gone forever."

"It has been alleged that Chickamauga resulted in the defeat of the Union army, and that Rosecrans' campaign south of the Tennessee was unsuccessful. Let us see how much truth there is in this allegation. If Lee, after fighting the battle of Gettysburg, had moved on to Harrisburg, and occupied that city to the end of the war, would his campaign have been regarded as a failure or a success? Grant was roughly handled in the Wilderness, and the enemy after pounding him for two days, and inflicting upon him great loss, took position and awaited his assault, but he did not make it: on the contrary, he moved on towards Richmond. Was Grant defeated? No. Again, he found Lee across his path at Spottsylvania Court House, and after a long battle and frightful losses he left him where he found him, and resumed his march towards Richmond. Was Grant defeated here? No. At North Anna he found Lee again obstructing his progress, and moved around and beyond him. At Cold Harbor he found Lee again before him, and discovered also that the line he had purposed to fight it out on if it took all summer, was wholly impracticable; and so after a terrible conflict he, on the 12th day of

the first summer month, abandoned Lee and the direct road to Richmond, transferred his army to the south side of the James, and took position in front of Petersburg. Do historians claim that all battles referred to were federal defeats? Not at all. Neither history nor popular opinion will admit that Grant ever suffered a defeat. Now, in the light of these admittedly successful operations, let us run through an epitome of the history of the Army of the Cumberland.

"Rosecrans assumed command of the Union forces, subsequently known as the Army of the Cumberland, in the latter part of October, 1862, a few weeks after they had, in part, participated in the battle of Perrysville, Kentucky. In the following December he attacked the Confederate army under Bragg, near Murfreesboro, and after a fierce contest continuing for four days, won the battle of Stone River. After fortifying Murfreesboro, with a view to making it a depot of supplies, he resumed his march southward, drove Bragg from his fortified camp at Tullahoma, and pursued his retreating columns beyond the Cumberland Mountains and the Tennessee River. The Confederate army now concentrated at Chattanooga. In this position it could not be disturbed by a direct attack. Resting on the northern bank of the Tennessee only long enough to make arrangement for bringing forward his supplies, Rosecrans crossed the river, struggled with his long supply train over two mountain ranges, and descended into the Chickamauga valley; thus threatening not only the railroads upon which the Confederate army depended for subsistence, but menacing

the enemy's rear and all the country lying southward. The objective of the Union general was Chattanooga, the key to the railroad system of the South. Bragg now abandoned Chattanooga in order to put himself between the Union army and his base of supplies, and at the same time appealed to the Confederate government for reinforcements. The reinforcements he called for were immedately supplied. Buckner, with a division, hurried to him from the vicinity of Knoxville, and Longstreet, with a corps of 15,000 men, was transferred by rail from Richmond to Chickamauga. Then, on parallel lines with both armies at equal distances from Chattanooga, there began on both sides a concentration northward toward the prize for which Rosecrans was struggling. The purpose of the federal army was to reach Chattanooga; that of the Confederate army to prevent it. And while rapidly shifting northward toward the place it had set out to seize and hold, the Union army was assailed, not in a position of its own choice, but in one selected by the enemy. After the first day's fighting both armies sought and secured new positions. After the second day's battle the Union army, following the trend of its previous movements, moved to Rossville, three or four miles nearer Chattanooga than in the field on which it had fought, took position there and awaited the coming of the enemy. The enemy came, but not in force. The fact is, the Confederate army had had all the fighting it could stand, and hence permitted the Army of the Cumberland to march deliberately and leisurely from Rossville into Chattanooga.

"Was this a victory for the national arms, or was it a defeat? What constitutes a victory? The possession of a few barren hills and ridges over which armies may march and fight? If so, Rosecrans' movement from the Cumberland to the Tennessee was a succession of the Union victories, for every foot of it was over hostile territory. There are two things, either of which may make a victory; first, the destruction of an army; second, the winning of the prize for which two armies contend. The Army of the Cumberland was not destroyed. In fact, with fewer men than the enemy, it inflicted greater loss upon the Confederates than it sustained. By an unlucky blunder its right wing was disabled early on the second day, but by such fighting as has never been surpassed, the army maintained its ground until there was not a shot to answer nor an assault to be repelled, and then deliberately took possession of the prize for which it had been contending. From that time forward Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama were practically free from the incursions of the enemy. The importance of Chattanooga in a military sense was not even second to Vicksburg. The occupation of the latter by Union troops left the Mississippi unobstructed from its head waters to the Gulf. The occupation of Chattanooga opened the gate by which the Union army could march almost unopposed to the sea. It may be said the Army of the Cumberland did not alone expel Bragg from the heights of Missionary Ridge. True; but if that army had not seized and held Chattanooga, the troops under Sherman and Hooker could not have concentrated there, and the

former would not have entered upon his brilliant campaign through Georgia and the Carolinas."

As to the second, Was Rosecrans properly supported by the Washington authorities? No. Not long ago a New York paper told the story by way of anecdote, — an anecdote that is more to the credit of Rosecrans than might be a whole chapter of history. The words of the New York paper were:

"The campaign which ended in the occupation of Chattanooga and which included the great battle of Chickamauga was one of the most brilliant of the whole war, when the conditions under which it was carried out are understood. Gen. Rosecrans started from Murfreesboro June 24, 1863, with the Army of the Cumberland, which had been promised support from Burnside's army of the Tennessee. Gen. Bragg, the Confederate commander, had been re-enforced by troops from Virginia under that brilliant and able officer, Gen. Longstreet. Regardless of the counsels of commanders, the clamor of the press and the principles of military science, Rosecrans, with the army of the Cumberland, was sent to dislodge an enemy of equal strength from a country well known to him and well adapted on account of its mountainous character to defensive tactics.

Curtin "Governors ~~Austin~~ of Pennsylvania, Andrew of Massachusetts and Yates of Illinois offered to send Rosecrans seven regiments of two-year veterans, who were willing to re-enlist on condition that they should go as mounted infantry to the army of the Cumberland, but Secretary Stanton, who was implacably hostile

to its commander, would not listen to the proposition. Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau bore a letter to the secretary of war explaining how very important the service of such a body of men would be in guarding the long line of communications which would have to be kept open in the advance upon Chattanooga. When the secretary read Gen. Rosecrans' letter, he said to Gen. Rousseau: "I would rather you would come to ask the command of the army of the Cumberland than to ask reinforcements for Gen. Rosecrans. He shall not have another d——d man."

"So the army of the Cumberland set out alone, and this, in brief, is what it accomplished under the general to whom Stanton refused to send 'another d——d man': Dislodged the enemy from two strongly fortified camps; crossed the Cumberland Mountains, the Tennessee River, Sand Mountains and Lookout Mountain; fought the battle of Chickamauga, and on September 22, 1863, just 92 days from starting from Murfreesboro, 119 miles away, held Chattanooga, the objective of the campaign.

"Thus Rosecrans, in a campaign of 92 days, secured and held Chattanooga, the gate through which Sherman and his army entered the Confederate wall when starting for the sea."

The following brief extract from "The Army of the Cumberland," written by Henry M. Cist, brevet brigadier-general, throws some light on the treatment Rosecrans received from the Washington authorities:

"On March 1 (1862) Halleck, as Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States, wrote a let-

ter, sending a copy to Rosecrans and Grant, offering the position of the then vacant major-generalship in the regular army to the general in the field who should first achieve an important and decisive victory. Grant very quietly folded up the letter, put it by for future reference and proceeded with the plans of his campaign, saying nothing. To Rosecrans' open, impulsive and honorable nature, engaged with all his powers in furthering the interests of the Government and the general welfare of his command, this letter was an insult, and he treated it accordingly. On March 6 he prepared his reply and forwarded it to Washington. In this letter he informed the General in Chief that 'as an officer and as a citizen he felt degraded at such an auctioneering of honors,' and then added: 'Have we a general who would fight for his personal benefit when he would not for honor and for his country? He would come by his commission basely in that case, and deserve to be despised by men of honor. But are all the brave and honorable generals on an equality as to chance? If not, it is unjust to those who probably deserve most.'

"The effect of this letter was to widen the breach between the authorities at Washington and Rosecrans. Halleck's letter and Rosecrans' reply were both characteristic of the men. From this time forward all the requests of Rosecrans for the improvement of the efficiency of his army were treated with great coolness, and in many instances it was only after the greatest importunity that he was able to secure the least attention to his recommendations for the increased usefulness of his command."

To confirm the statements made above we give a few extracts from officers high in the ranks of the army of the Cumberland and who had ample opportunity to know all the varying issues of the disputed questions.

GENERAL MANDERSON.

Senator from Nebraska, in a masterly oration delivered in 1895, says: "And yet, in spite of abundant available testimony, Chickamauga is declared by those either ignorant or jealous to have been a defeat of the Federal arms, and the non-fighting croakers at Washington indulged in much paper bombardment of those who planned the campaign. A victim was demanded, and Rosecrans was cruelly sacrificed. His services from the beginning of the war were ignored. No recollection of Stone River moved to respect for that ability that we who had served under him knew he possessed. The vilification of Rosecrans by these carping critics was abuse of the grand army he led from Nashville to Murfreesboro; to 'victory plucked from the jaws of defeat' and victory most pronounced at Stone River; through the Tullahoma campaign to the final occupation of the objective point of all military endeavor, from the days of 1861 when the troops of the Union crossed the Ohio River. Rosecrans came to us with the halo of battles fought and won, and secured not only the confidence but the affection of his men, who gave the soldier's characteristic evidence of it by giving him a familiar nickname, and to us of that time he is still 'Old Rosey.' The Army of the Cumberland

felt that splendid leadership had failed of recognition, arduous service had been poorly requited and the soldierly merits of a superb strategist grossly ignored when Rosecrans was deposed."

GENERAL A. WILEY

says: "The campaign of Rosecrans was bold, enterprising, vigorous. By his sound judgment and vigilance he anticipated and countered every movement of his adversary. Throughout he exhibited the highest degree of moral courage. That he failed of accomplishing all he attempted was no fault of his own, nor was it due to any lack of the highest soldierly qualities of the army he commanded. It was attributable to the superior advantages for rapid concentration which interior lines afforded his adversary, and to the total failure of support and co-operation on the part of Burnside, on which he had been told, at the commencement of the campaign, he could rely."

GENERAL PHIL SHERIDAN

in his "Personal Memoirs" says of Rosecrans' removal from the command of the Army of the Cumberland: "He submitted uncomplainingly to his removal and modestly left us without fuss or demonstration, ever maintaining that the battle of Chickamauga was in effect a victory. When his departure became known, deep and almost universal regret was expressed, for he was enthusiastically esteemed and loved by the Army of the Cumberland from the day he assumed command until he left it."

One of the most persistent defenders of Gen. Rosecrans has been

still living and a prominent journalist in Washington, who at all times has insisted that Rosecrans was not properly supported by the authorities at Washington, a fact which seems now to be pretty well established. One writer, in summing up the whole campaign, says: "It was one of the most brilliant of the whole war, when the conditions under which it was carried out are understood, and opened the way by which the troops of Sherman and Hooker were concentrated and was the entering wedge by which the former commenced his historic march to the sea through Georgia and the Carolinas."



broke the silence of years in 1880 to publicly contradict the current statement that the only order issued by him on the day of the battle was the one that opened the fatal gap in the Union lines, all the other orders being attributed to his chief of staff, General Garfield. In contradicting this statement, from all responsibility in regard to which he chivalrously exonerated Gen. Garfield, Gen. Rosecrans speaks of it as "another outcropping of the historic lies about Chickamauga which began in a gigantic conspiracy through the press to cover up the crime against our country which was perpetrated in sending the Army of the Cumberland, alone and unaided, over an almost barren wilderness, across the Cumberland Mountains and Lookout Range into the mountains of Northwestern Georgia, 150 miles from its nearest base of supplies, to encounter the con-

centrated forces of the Confederacy, greatly confident of victory; while Grant, with the whole Army of the Tennessee, was lying quiescent since Vicksburg. Burnside, with 42,000 effectives, was sent 200 miles away into East Tennessee, where he could not weigh a feather in the contest: the Gulf Department, by its expedition under Herron into Texas, was wholly incapable of making diversion on the gulf coast which would detain a single man from our front, and the Army of the Potomac was so inactive as to permit Lee to send Longstreet's whole corps to join in crushing us." History has, however, rendered tardy justice to Gen. Rosecrans; and its verdict may be summed up in these words of Gen. Boynton, who, after speaking of Chickamauga as crowning with success the last campaign of Gen. Rosecrans, and being "matchless in its strategy, unequalled in the skill and energy with which his outnumbered army was concentrated for battle," says that had Rosecrans "crossed the river in front of the city and captured it with even greater loss, the country would have gone wild with enthusiasm. Had he been properly supported from Washington, he would have entered it without a battle, since if there had been any show of activity elsewhere, Bragg's army would not have been nearly doubled with re-enforcements and thus enabled to march back on Chattanooga after its retreat from the city." Practically, the battle was a Union victory, won by Rosecrans' masterly skill and indomitable perseverance; and, as Gen. Hill admitted, it "sealed the fate of the Southern Confederacy."

## CHAPTER III.

### HOW HE MISSED THE PRESIDENCY.

IT may not be generally known that our hero came near being placed on the ticket with Lincoln in 1864, and how he missed his nomination is an interesting story. After his removal from the Army of the Cumberland, public feeling once more turned toward him and there was a general sentiment in and out of army circles that he had been unjustly dealt with. So strong was this feeling that well informed politicians thought that he would add strength to the Republican ticket, and in June, 1864, Garfield telegraphed him from Baltimore asking him if he would accept the nomination for Vice-president on the ticket with Lincoln. Though always a Democrat and intensely loyal, after consulting friends he wired back a message that virtually was in the affirmative. Garfield always claimed he never received the message and so Andy Johnson was put on the ticket.

It has since been pretty well established that Stanton suppressed the message of Rosecrans, for Rosecrans was always *persona non grata* at the War Department, for the reason that he was not afraid to tell the truth. When war was a certainty, in 1861, Gen. Morgan, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, was summoned by

wire to Washington, as his name had come up in a conversation held by members of the Cabinet with Gen. Scott. Asked what should be done with Robt. E. Lee, who had laid down his commission as an U. S. Army officer, he at once answered in his brusque way, "Slap him in jail, for if you don't, he will lead the secessionists."

Stanton scoffed at this idea, but history proves Morgan was right. Stanton had no use for any man who happened to know just a bit more than he did.

Rosecrans had a similar experience. He had opinions and plans of his own concerning the war, and, like Morgan, did not hesitate to say that, knowing the people of the South, he knew the war could not be finished in a few weeks. Stanton at that time had a bad case of enlargement of the head — now politely called mental mumps — and insisted that the North could whip h—l out of the South before the summer was over. Morgan and Rosecrans and other officers of experience thought otherwise. Rosecrans, fortified by a brilliant record as an officer of engineers, and knowing Longstreet, Van Dorn and others of the South — they had been his classmates at West Point— received a cordial hearing from Lincoln and McClellan. His suggestions were not listened to, — Stanton would have none of them.

Stanton's enmity was also increased by Rosecrans' letter to Halleck in 1862, mentioned previously in this sketch, and also by the fact that Rosecrans was credited by the public with having "discovered" Sheridan.

When the orders relieving Gen. Rosecrans and ap-

pointing Gen. Thomas in his place reached the army, they were denounced on all sides as unjust. "Gen. Thomas," according to Gen. Boynton, "insisted that he would resign rather than acquiesce in Gen. Rosecrans' removal by his accepting the command. It was at Rosecrans' earnest solicitation that he reconsidered this determination. But he did not hesitate to say that the order was cruelly unjust. When Gen. Garfield left for Washington soon after the battle, he immediately charged him to do all he could to have Rosecrans righted."

Whether Garfield ever carried out the wish of Thomas is uncertain to this day. The probabilities are, that knowing Stanton's hostility to Rosecrans, he never made the attempt.

Garfield at that time was a member of Congress from Ohio and had stood for election in his district by the advice of Rosecrans, who said that he (Garfield), having been in the field and knowing the needs of the army, would be able to do much good on the floor of Congress whenever war measures came before that body. There has always been a lurking suspicion that Garfield in his ambition forgot his old commander and how much he owed him for his own success.

## CHAPTER IV.

### HIS CONVERSION TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

WHILE a cadet at West Point Rosecrans obtained a few books treating of the Catholic Church from an old Irishman, who was in the habit of paying periodical visits to the institution to sell books and papers. In company with another cadet, now Very Rev. George Deshon, Superior of the Paulist Fathers of New York, he became interested in the claims of the Church and it was not long until his logical mind was convinced; and finally, two years after his graduation, while he was Assistant Professor of Engineering, in 1844, he was, in his own words, "baptized *sub conditione*, because it was a vague tradition that in my early days a Protestant or Wesleyan Methodist minister at my grandmother's instance had baptized me, following the traditional ritual of the Church of England in so doing." Shortly after his marriage his wife also became a Catholic, and in 1846 he was instrumental in converting his brother Sylvester, who eventually became the first Catholic Bishop of Columbus, Ohio, within whose diocese was located his birthplace, Homer, Licking County. The brothers were much attached to each other and their correspondence, when the one was at West Point and the other at Kenyon

College, Gambier, Ohio, was frequent. After the younger graduated, he paid his elder brother a visit, and as the two were taking a walk one day, they chanced to pass a Catholic church; whereupon the young lieutenant, to quote the words of one conversant with the facts in the case, said to his brother: "It is high time, Sylvester, for you to put an end to this procrastination of yours; come in here and get baptized."

Mechanically obeying the command, and entering for the first time in his life a Catholic church, the same authority tells the story of the Bishop's conversion: "They soon reached an altar, before which, to the young brother's surprise, shone a lighted lamp, although it was broad daylight. 'Let us pray here,' said the captain, 'in the Real Presence, for two graces, the grace of light to know the truth, and the grace of strength to follow it'; and with this he knelt down. Sylvester also knelt, as a matter of courtesy to his brother, but by no means to pray. He gazed around for a while at the works of art within reach of his eyes, but not being in the habit of kneeling long at any time, and his knees aching, he turned to look at his brother, whom he found absorbed in God.

"The sight was too much for Sylvester. 'Wretch that I am,' said he to himself, 'while this truly good man is so earnestly interesting himself with Heaven for my soul's salvation, I am indifferent, as if it were none of my business. God is everywhere, and therefore, here; I, too, will pray for strength and light.' And he did pray, so long and earnestly, that when he

began to look for his brother, he found him in a remote part of the church. Up sprang Sylvester, and with agitated steps he approached the captain. 'Well, Sylvester,' whispered the latter, 'what will you do?' 'I wish to be baptized,' was the prompt reply; 'I hope the priest is at home.' Happily the priest was at home, and finding his caller already, thanks to his brother's good offices, well instructed in Catholic teachings, he had no hesitation in baptizing him and receiving him into the Catholic fold. Many years later, when the diocese of Columbus was erected, Rt. Rev. Sylvester Horton Rosecrans, who had been consecrated titular of Pompeiopolis, in partibus, on the feast of the Annunciation, 1862, and appointed Auxiliary to Archbishop Purcell, of Cincinnati, was transferred to the new See, and at once took possession of his vineyard."

The following letter received by the writer some years ago, it need not be mentioned, is highly prized:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, REGISTER'S OFFICE.

Dec. 11, 1886.

Dear Father Mulhane: — Bishop Rosecrans was baptized at Cold Spring on the North River opposite West Point, N. Y., by the Rev. Dr. Villani, pastor of the Catholic Church at that place, and in charge of the station at the Post of West Point, in the summer of 1846. I was his godfather and my wife his godmother. I do not remember whether it was *sub conditione*.

My baptism in 1844 was *sub conditione*, because it was a vague tradition that in my early infancy a Protestant or Wesleyan Methodist minister at my grandmother's instance had baptized me, following the traditional ritual of the church of England in so doing. Yours most truly,

W. S. ROSECRANS,

To the Rev. L. W. Mulhane,
Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

The great warrior's faith always shone out strong and clear. It is told that at a most critical moment during the battle of Stone River, when McCook's men were wavering, he dashed to the front, exposing himself to the enemy's fire. A young staff officer (no doubt Garesche, a great favorite of our hero and a Catholic) who accompanied him, begged him to retire to a place of greater safety and not expose himself to almost certain death. Rosecrans, urging on his horse, replied: "Never mind me, my boy, but make the sign of the cross and go in." In his "Reminiscences," now being published in McClure's Magazine, the late Charles A. Dana, assistant secretary of war under Stanton, states that he saw Rosecrans making the sign of the cross during the awful conflict at Chickamauga.

Both his great mind and his large heart were thoroughly imbued with strong Catholic faith, and though not seeking occasion to outwardly manifest it to the world, it instinctively would crop out on certain occasions, sometimes when least expected. Some years ago, while passing through Ohio on a campaign tour with Hendricks, he reached Columbus one evening, taking rooms with his political companions at the Neil House. He soon excused himself from the party and wended his way out Broad street to the Cathedral, where he made inquiry for a priest, desiring to go to confession that he might the next morning go to Holy Communion for his deceased brother, the Bishop, whose remains rest under the altar of that church. At 6 o'clock the next morning he attended mass and

received Holy Communion. As he was returning to the hotel, he met one of his political friends who had been looking for him and who said: "Why! General, where in the world have you been so early this morning? Your friends at the hotel are anxious about you, that you may not miss that early train." The old veteran answered: "Oh! I have been out to the Cathedral to pay my respects to Almighty God and to pray for my brother, who used to be Bishop out there." The answer, from other lips, might have seemed trivial, but coming from him in deep voice and reverential tone, it was beautiful. The two who heard it have always remembered it, — one a Catholic, the other a non-Catholic. The words, the far-away look in the old hero's eyes, the reverence of the voice, the early morning of a beautiful September day, all chimed to make it an occasion that the two present have never forgotten.

It was this same spirit and simplicity of faith that caused him to pen the telegram that he sent from California to New York on the occasion of the death of his brilliant son, Father Louis Rosecrans, a member of the Paulist Order. When telegraphed of the death and asked for any wish as to the place of burial, the wires bore back this sweet message: "Bury him beside his Paulist brethren to await the great Resurrection Day, and God bless all who have been kind to him."

His sincerity also was the means of converting his wife.

A newspaper correspondent describing the working habits of the General when getting the 14th Corps

into condition after assuming command, wrote: "On Sundays and Wednesdays he rose early and attended Mass." "At night, when conversation took a religious turn," says the same writer, "the General took the argument and carried it often into the realms of Mother Church, where the vehemence of his intellect and his zealous temper developed themselves thoroughly. He had the Fathers of the Church at his tongue's end, and exhibited a familiarity with controversial theology that made him a formidable antagonist to the best read, even of the clerical profession. He would admit no fallibility whatever in any department of his own Church, but he did not permit his strong reliance in the Church of Rome to warp his judgment in material things, especially in military matters." On the morning of every important engagement, or perilous undertaking, it was his invariable custom to attend Mass and commit himself and his army to the keeping of the God of battles.

Here is Major Bickham's description of how he begun the Stone River fight, one of the most glorious of his victories: "A little later (than the dawn of day) the dauntless leader of the army knelt at the altar and prayed to the God of battles. High (?) Mass was celebrated in a little tent opposite his marquee. Rev. Father Cooney, the zealous chaplain of the 35th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, officiated, assisted by Rev. Father Trecy, the constant spiritual companion of the General, and whose fidelity to his chief was second only to his devotion to the faith he preached. Gen. Rosecrans knelt humbly in the corner of his

tent; Garesche, no less devout, by his side; a trio of humble soldiers meekly knelt in front of the tent; groups of officers, booted and spurred for battle, with heads reverentially uncovered, stood outside and mutely muttered their prayers. What grave anxieties, what exquisite emotions, what deep thoughts moved the hearts and minds of those pious soldiers, into whose keeping God and their country had delivered, not merely the lives of a thousand men who must die at last, but the vitality of a principle, the cause of self government and of human liberty!"

He was averse to all needless labor on the Lord's day, a fact that was so well understood by his staff, that Gen. Crittenden once said of his commander that "he did not believe the Master would smile upon any unnecessary violation of His laws." Firm in his own faith, "he never interferes," said an eye-witness of his acts, "with the spiritual affairs of any subordinate, regarding these as sacred personal matters, to be governed by the convictions of each individual." At proper time and in the proper place, though, he was ever ready to speak for his faith and impress its truth upon others. The priests in the army were his particular friends; and Father Trecy, formerly of Huntsville, Ala., was held in special regard by him because of his personal worth and the fact that his loyalty to the Union made it necessary for him to quit the South. He was attending a Mass celebrated by that clergyman when the news was brought to him that his prayers for his country had been answered, that the enemy had fled and that the important battle of Stone River had been won.

## CHAPTER V.

### TRIBUTES.

IN a speech at the Chickamauga dedication, McKinley, then Governor of Ohio, said:

"General Rosecrans, a graduate of great distinction at the United States Military Academy in 1842, and who served in the army until 1864, was the commander-in-chief of the Union forces and was an honored citizen of our own State. He entered the volunteer service as colonel of the Twenty-third Ohio infantry. I recall him with peculiar tenderness and respect. He was the first colonel of the regiment to which I belonged, my boyhood ideal of a great soldier; and I gladly pay him my tribute of love for his tender qualities, which endeared him to me, and the high soldierly qualities which earned for him the gratitude of the State for his magnificent service to the Union cause. Ohio is proud of him and in his old age and declining years I beg him to know that he enjoys the affectionate regard of the old State, which will guard his fame forever."

When the bill placing him on the retired list was before Congress some fourteen speeches were made on the occasion. I quote from a few:

Gen. Cutcheon, of Michigan, said:

"When the tocsin of war was sounded, Gen. Rosecrans did not hesitate or falter, but he left every-

thing behind him and laid all that he had upon the altar of his country, and when we needed victory, when this country in its heart of hearts was aching for want of victory, Gen. Rosecrans, in the very beginning, in West Virginia, gave us victory. Again in the far Southwest, at Iuka, he gave us victory. He was promoted step by step from colonel to brigadier-general, and from that to major-general, and was placed at the head of the Army of the Cumberland, and again, in the closing days of December, 1862, at Stone River, he lighted the horizon of this whole country from edge to edge with the fires of victory. Then, following that, he gave us one of the most magnificent specimens of perfect strategy that the entire war afforded, in the Tullahoma campaign, when, almost without the sacrifice of a life, he flanked Bragg out of his fortified position at Tullahoma and carried his army across the mountains into the valley of Chickamauga."

Hon. O. L. Jackson, of Pennsylvania, who served four years in the army of the Tennessee, said:

"It was Rosecrans who commanded and directed the brave men at Stone River on those fearful winter days when again the tide of battle was turned southward. It was under him Phil Sheridan first rode at the head of a division, and on this bloody field gave evidence of the high rank he was afterwards to attain. It was Rosecrans' skill and genius that maneuvered the enemy out of Chattanooga and gave the Army of the Cumberland a position at Chickamauga that enabled him to hold at bay Bragg's army, re-enforced by one of the best corps from the rebel army on the Potomac.

Do not forget that it was under Rosecrans that Thomas stood, the Rock of Chickamauga.

"Mr. Speaker, there was a day in the nation's peril when good Abraham Lincoln thought he ought to send the thanks of the nation to Gen. Rosecrans and the officers and men of his command for their great services in the field."

Gen. David B. Henderson, of Iowa, who left a leg on the battlefield, electrified the House by his appeal in behalf of his old commander. In the course of his remarks he said:

"As a member of the Army of the Tennessee, I followed both Grant and Rosecrans. I fought under Rosecrans at Corinth. I was with him in that battle, and he was the only general I ever saw closer to the enemy than we were who fought in the front, for in that great battle he dashed in front of our lines when the flower of Price's army was pouring death and destruction into our ranks. The bullets had carried off his hat, his hair was floating in the wind, and protected by the God of battle, he passed along the line and shouted, 'Soldiers, stand by your flag and country!' We obeyed his orders. We crushed Price's army, and gave the country the great triumph of the battle of Corinth. Gen. Rosecrans was the central, the leading and the victorious spirit."

Gen. Weaver, of Iowa, served under Rosecrans, and said:

"I, too, had the honor to participate in the battle at Corinth in 1862, and I know, and the country knows, that but for the magnificent strategy of Rosecrans,

his soldierly bearing, his wonderful grasp of and attention to the details of that battle, the Army of the Southwest would have been overthrown and the consequences could not have been foretold. He decoyed the army of Price on to the spot where he designed to fight the battle and the result was that he was victorious, and captured parts of sixty-nine different commands serving under Price and Van Dorn and the other Confederate commanders. In that important battle he saved the cause of the Union in the Southwest. Rosecrans was a splendid soldier, a valuable officer and is now an honored citizen."

Here is the manner in which he impressed the correspondent of the *Cincinnati Commercial*, "W. D. B.", who was with him in the three months' campaign with the old 14th Army Corps, that terminated with the brilliant victory of Stone River. "Industry was one of the most valuable qualities of Gen. Rosecrans," wrote this correspondent. "Labor was a constitutional necessity with him. And he enjoyed a fine faculty for the disposition of military business — a faculty which rapidly improved with experience. He neither spared himself nor his subordinates. He insisted on being surrounded with active, rapid workers. He 'liked sandy fellows,' because they were 'quick and sharp.' He rarely found staff officers who could endure with him." And no wonder! The General was the first officer to begin work in the morning, and the last to leave off at night, never, so this same authority states, retiring before two o'clock in the morning, very often not until four, and sometimes not until broad daylight.

No wonder, too, that the soldiers spoke enthusiastically of "Rosy," as they called their commander, and expressed to each other their confidence in him, when they heard him tell them that if their equipment was in any way deficient, they should ask for what was needed and keep on asking until they got it; or that his subordinate officers were loud in his praise when they saw that in his official reports to headquarters every man who had distinguished himself in action was honorably mentioned and strongly recommended for promotion.

One more portraiture of Gen. Rosecrans, as he appeared to those who were associated with him when he commanded the 14th Army Corps may not be out of place here. "He had no taste for party politics," wrote Gen. Boynton, "having dismissed that subject until the rebellion should be crushed — a point upon which he expressed no doubts. And, indeed, he had never been a politician. Upon the general subject of slavery, he held the faith that had been proclaimed immemorially by his Church and by all nations which have pretended to civilization. * * * Upon *belles lettres* he opened a mine of rich lore, and charmed you, as well by the felicity of his illustrations, as by the pungent and comprehensive character of his criticism. It was not a little amusing to the author to read in a leading eastern journal, that in science and literature Rosecrans was probably the inferior of McClellan and Buell. Their respective mutual classmates, and later associates, are sure that either of the latter might learn from him in each department. His general

knowledge of science is extensive. Geology and mineralogy are specialties, and in those sciences he ranks among the most accomplished in the country."

Let us add just one discordant note, penned by one who has gone to the other world.

In Charles A. Dana's "Reminiscences," in the February number of *McClure's Magazine*, there is a record of the impression Gen. Rosecrans made on Mr. Dana, who was with him in the Chickamauga campaign of 1863. Mr. Dana says of him:

"While few persons exhibited more estimable social qualities, I have never seen a public man possessing talent with less administrative power, less clearness and steadiness in difficulty, and greater practical incapacity than Gen. Rosecrans. He had inventive fertility and knowledge, but he had no strength of will and no concentration of purpose. His mind scattered: there was no system in the use of his busy days and restless nights, no courage against individuals in his composition, and, with great love of command, he was a feeble commander. He was conscientious and honest, just as he was imperious and disputatious; always with a stray vein of caprice, and an overweening passion for the approbation of his personal friends and the public outside."

It should be remembered that this estimate was made after Chickamauga; and that it is absolutely in contradiction of all other estimates made by those who had just as much, if not more, opportunity of studying the character of our hero. That "he was a feeble commander" is unjust and untrue and would be repu-

diated by every officer and private of the grand old Army of the Cumberland. Dana was a civilian and like many another in his day was ever ready to hastily criticize the warriors fighting the battles of their country. As an offset to this opinion we need but place the kind words of such veterans, both of war and journalism, as Gen. Boynton, Col. Furay and Maj. Bickham.

The *Ohio State Journal* said:

"'Old Rosy' is dead. The hero of Stone River and Chickamauga, one of the few remaining commanders of the late war, has passed away. General William Starke Rosecrans died at his home near Los Angeles, Cal., yesterday morning, of the ailments consequent upon old age, in the 79th year of his age.

"His war service embraced the command of the Army of the Mississippi, succeeding General Pope, the command of the Army of the Cumberland, with a campaign in West Virginia, his brilliant success at Carnifex Ferry sending him West. The battles of Stone River and Chickamauga were fought under his generalship, both engagements being among the bloodiest of the war. There was a disposition to censure Rosecrans for his conduct in the latter battle, but later developments justified the views of his friends at the time, that the Union forces had accomplished much, though at the expense of thousands of lives. But the gallant Rosecrans was hurt, not only by these misrepresentations, but by the venom with which he was pursued. His nervousness, irritability and impatience showed to a disadvantage, and he was relieved of his

command. This practically closed his military career, but he did not resign until after the close of the war.

"With the flight of time, the severest censors of Rosecrans are willing to admit that he was as clever a strategist at Chickamauga as he was at Stone River, even though he had a largely reinforced enemy to meet. He was a great favorite with his men, and the boys who marched with him in the awful campaigns will hear of his death with unfeigned regret. He was a splendid fighter, possessed of a fine military mind and ample experience, but had a nervous temperament that at times unfortunately tended to obscure in the popular mind the brightness of his achievements on the field."

The following estimate of Gen. Rosecrans appeared in the columns of the *Western Christian Advocate*, a Methodist paper, whose editor, Dr. David H. Moore, was a soldier. It is entitled "Our 'Wreath of Roses.'"

"There died last Friday, in Los Angeles, the ablest tactician among the great generals of the Civil War. An impartial study of the history of that immortal contest will show that in this respect no man, on either side, surpassed William Starke Rosecrans. Whitelaw Reid styles him the American Jomini.

"Was there ever a better planned movement than that which resulted in the first fight 'above the clouds,' where Rosecrans headed the 13th Indiana in a headlong charge that sent Pegram flying from Rich Mountain and Garrett from Laurel Hill? It lacked only the promised co-operation of McClellan to have bagged

the game so cleverly started. Was there any other Union officer who outgeneraled Robert E. Lee? Yet when that incomparable Confederate leader undertook to win back West Virginia from our Wreath of Roses, capping the summit of Cheat Mountain, he was outmaneuvered at every point, his Kanawha division only escaping capture by the failure of Benham to obey Rosecrans' orders. Iuka and Corinth added new laurels to this Wreath, when Price and Van Dorn were compelled to acknowledge his victorious prowess. Had Phil Sheridan and not McCook commanded the pivot at Murfreesboro, there had hardly been a remnant of Bragg's army left. As it was, never was a battle-plan more speedily and successfully changed in the teeth of impending disaster.

"The chess-board of war has not witnessed more brilliant moves than those by which he maneuvered Bragg out of Tullahoma. Opinion will forever be divided on Chickamauga; but Chickamauga was fought for Chattanooga, and the prize was won. If there Rosecrans' military sun set, it bathed the heavens in its effulgence.

"Three things are alleged to have blocked his way to the very front: his inability to select competent lieutenants; his kind-hearted reluctance to remove a commander whose weakness had been demonstrated; and his lack of tact in managing his superior officers. If permitted to develop his own plans, Rosecrans, in our judgment, would have topped the immortals.

" 'Old Rosey,' the boys called him; and they loved him for his cheer and care and kindness.

"He was the Roman Catholic Howard. A devouter Christian there was not. We have not escaped the clutches of prejudice; but all must admit that, though wholly a Romanist, he was Catholic in his charity to those from whom he differed. He believed in God with all his heart.

"He was a native of Kingston Township, Delaware County, Ohio, and lived from September 6, 1819, to March 11, 1898. His paternal ancestors were from Amsterdam; his Dutch patronymic meaning, 'a wreath of roses' — the perfume of which will sweeten American history."

## CHAPTER VI.

### NOTES AND ANECDOTES.

### HIS SIMPLICITY.

NO man could have been more gentle and simple in his way. He carried all his honors and extensive learning with the modesty becoming a great genius. His lot was not always cast in the most pleasant places, and yet he bore his disappointments with Christian fortitude. He charmed every one with his delightful conversation and, meeting him once, you longed for another opportunity to listen to him. He could talk entertainingly on all subjects and would drift along from a scientific discussion of the *radius vector* in mathematics to some disputed point in history and then quietly drift into a talk about the wonderful manifestation of God's love for man in the sublime mystery of the Incarnation.

### HIS GENEROSITY.

The things of the world — money, etc., — seemed to have no alluring interest for him, and in his last days of official life at Washington, as Register of the Treasury of the United States, his purse was ever open to the needy. At the close of official hours, as he left the Treasury Department and wended his way to his room at Willard's Hotel, he almost invariably was

stopped by some old veteran who appealed for assistance; and if he had no money with him, he took the needy one into the hotel and had the clerk advance it for him, until, when pay-day came around, his check was turned over to the hotel clerk and generally but little was left to his credit.

### HIS BRAVERY.

Sheridan, in his "Personal Memoirs," writing of the battle of Stone River, tells this incident: "Gen. Rosecrans, with a part of his staff and a few soldiers, rode out on the rearranged line to superintend its formation and encourage the men, and in the prosecution of these objects moved around the front of the column of attack within range of the batteries that were shelling us so viciously. As he passed to the open ground on my left, I joined him. The enemy seeing this mounted party, turned his guns upon it, and his accurate aim was soon rewarded, for a solid shot carried away the head of Col. Garesche, the chief of staff, and killed or wounded two or three orderlies. Garesche's appalling death stunned us all, and a momentary expression of horror spread over Rosecrans' face; but at such time the importance of self-control was vital; and he pursued his course with an appearance (?) which, however, those immediately about him saw was assumed, for undoubtedly he felt most deeply the death of his friend and trusted staff officer."

### "OLD ROSEY AND THE TROOPER."

The following story, oft repeated, was one that "Old Rosey" appeared to enjoy hugely, for, as he said, it was at his own expense:

The Army of the Cumberland was making a march in a driving rainstorm, the infantry foot deep in mud,



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the cavalry mud-bespattered, the wagons and artillery frequently stalled. Several officers were riding along the road when they saw a cannon almost helplessly imbedded in the all-pervading mud of a cornfield. At the suggestion of the leader they left their mounts and, wading over to the group working to extricate this implement of war, lent their assistance. The men were cursing the weather, the mud, the horses, the gun, and more particularly and with greater freedom, Gen. Rosecrans, who, they said, had got them into all the trouble. In the latter particular they were all very fluent, with the exception of one trooper who was pushing at the wheel with one of the officers who was working hardest. While the others were doing brilliant work in the way of reviling the General, he remained silent.

Finally the gun was extricated from its earthly bed, and the unrecognized officer departed. Then the silent soldier spoke:

"Don't you know, you blame fools," he said, "that Gen. Rosecrans was pushing that wheel with me?"

### "LONG-LEGGED JIM."

Another favorite yarn with Gen. Rosecrans was about a soldier known as "Long-legged Jim." He was a brave fellow but fearfully lazy. On one occasion during a long, dusty march on a hot summer day, towards four o'clock in the afternoon, while marching through a bit of timber country, Jim could not resist the temptation to sit down on a log and enjoy the shade. His captain spoke up and urged

him to come on. Jim threw down his gun and replied, "Cap, I'll be danged if I *walk* another step to-day." The captain, knowing Jim thoroughly, answered, "All right," and the company kept right on over the brow of a neighboring hill. Very soon bullets were heard whistling through the branches of the trees and Jim, grabbing his gun, started after his companions, who by this time had come out in the clearing, and to avoid the deep dust of the road were marching along close to a rail fence. Jim came flying by at double quick in the middle of the road, and as he passed by the captain yelled: "Say, Jim, I thought you said you wouldn't walk another step to-day?" "Thunder and lightning! Cap., do you call this *walking*?" answered Jim, as he ran by at double-quick.

"WIDOW GLENN'S HOUSE."

This is the famous spot, where Rosecrans held his last council of war before the historic 20th day of September, 1863. Here is a description of that scene from the pen of Capt. W. C. Margedant:

"Widow Glenn's log house was, like all the houses of that kind, provided with a large fire-place, in which a bright fire was burning — perhaps the only fire within 15 square miles, on account of the order given not to light fires on that night for any purpose. The remains of a candle were stuck into a reversed bayonet, lighting up dimly the battle map, which was spread out upon a cartridge box. The fire in the large chimney place flared up from time to time, illuminating the faces of those who took part in the council of war.

"There was Major-General Rosecrans, sitting, in full uniform and sword, on the edge of a rustic bed frame, bending toward the center of the scantily furnished room, listening and sometimes talking to General Thomas, who sat near the fire, occupying the only chair which had been left by the widow Glenn. There were other generals, commanding corps, divisions and brigades, some sitting on the rough-hewn barren floor, with their backs against the walls, while others stood up.

"It was a picture well worth painting — this the last council of war on the field of battle — the dim, flaring light, the faces of the men who directed the battles, the bright metallic shine of the swords and uniforms, when the fire flared up in the primitive chimney. Sometimes, when there was a hush of silence in the conversation, we could hear, far in the distance in the enemy's lines, the arrival of trains and moving of troops, reinforcements, soldiers from all parts of the Confederacy. It was not the usual preparations of a Saturday night for a peaceful Sunday; nay, it was for the most bloody fight ever fought, September 20, 1863. There were a few short hours' rest left after the hardships of the first day's battle, and during this last war council of the commanders, the soldiers rested on their arms, awaiting the break of day to renew their deadly conflict.

"When the first rays of light colored the firmament in the East with a bright reddish hue, Gen. Garfield ordered the general staff officers to mount for the inspection of our lines. Major-General Rosecrans led

the cavalcade. It was one of those quiet, peaceful Sunday mornings enjoyed only in the country or the woods. There was no noise. Speaking was done in a whisper."

Capt. Wm. C. Margedant, formerly Topographical Engineer on General Rosecrans' staff, contributed a very interesting series of letters to the Hamilton, O., *News*, from which we quote the following reminiscences:

HIS INSPECTION.

The manner of his inspection at once engendered a cordiality toward him which promised happy results. The soldiers were satisfied that their commander took an interest in their welfare — a moralizing, agency which no capable general of volunteers can safely neglect. He examined the equipments of the men with exacting scrutiny. No trifling minutiae escaped him. Everything to which a soldier was entitled was important. A private without a canteen instantly evoked a volley of searching inquiries. "Where is your canteen?" "How did you lose it? when? where?" "Why don't you get another?" To others, "You need shoes and you a knapsack." Soldiers thus addressed were apt to frankly reply, sometimes a whole company was laughing at the novelty of this keen inquisition.

"Can't get shoes," said one; "required a canteen and could not get it," rejoined another. "Why?" quoth the general. "Go to your captain and demand what you need. Go to him every day until you get it. Bore him for it. Bore him in his quarters. Bore

him at meal-times. Bore him in bed. Bore him: bore him: bore him. Don't let him rest." And to the captains. "You bore your colonels; let the colonels bore the brigadiers; brigadiers bore their division generals; division generals bore their corps commanders, and them bore me. I'll see, then, if you don't get what you want. Bore, bore, bore, until you get everything you are entitled to: and so on through an entire division." "That's the talk, boys," quoth a brawny fellow. "He'll do," said another; and the soldiers returned to their camp-fires and talked about "Rosy" just as those in Mississippi had talked who knew and loved him.

### THE "JACKASS BATTERY."

Early in the campaign of West Virginia after the battle of Rich Mountain and the engagements of Philippi and Beverly, General Rosecrans conceived the plan of forming, what is now called, his famous "Jackass Battery." In taking up the march through the mountains they were almost daily compelled to face the enemy. The advancing column had to fight its way through the mountains, fight for the possession of the woods, clear the valleys and sweep the hills. They moved forward under the greatest difficulties, and General Rosecrans designed a unique battery consisting of several hundred mules each carrying a certain part of the cannons. The latter were very short, but had a very wide bore; the first mule carried the wheels, the second the lafette, the next the gun, and so on. The mountain roads were very narrow, often

only affording room for two mules. Whenever the army made a stop the "Mountain Howitzers" or "Jackass Battery" was brought forward and the cannon quickly put together and the firing could begin. The confederates could not stand these shells and always gave the right of way.

This "Jackass Battery" of General Rosecrans proved so effective that it was adopted through all the mountain regions. The English always on the alert for advantages, copied our custom and introduced it into their army. They mounted the gun on the mule, loaded the gun while it was on the mule, having forgotten to note that the Americans placed the gun in proper position. They lighted the fuse of the loaded cannon, and the mule being frightened at the hissing sound, suddenly wheeled around until the cannon faced the officers, and the charge went off. History does not relate what became of the mule.

### THE WHEELING STOGIE.

General Rosecrans was very fond of smoking cigars, but he was not particular of what weed the cigar was made. His favorite cigar was a Wheeling stoggie, a slim, irregular twist of tobacco, which would never get dry, and twisted around the finger. At that time this brand of cigars would sell for thirty-five cents a hundred. The general smoked these cigars, which were actually not of Havana aroma, when he rode at the head of the army through the mountain regions of West Virginia.

The staff officers always tried to keep on the wind side of the general, so as to give the rising smoke,

which sometimes came in big puffs, all possible space for departure. It cannot be claimed that the general kept all of his treasure to himself. Cigars were at that time, in the mountains of Virginia, considered quite as much a boon as a white paper shirt collar was. On the contrary, whenever an officer rode to the front to make a report or to receive an order, the general would sink his hands into his well-filled pockets and taking therefrom a cigar he would address the officer as follows: "Have a cigar, sir."

I remember that on a certain day, one of the rough and ready colonels of a regiment, whose name I have forgotten, rode up on the windy side of the general. As usual the first thing the general said, "colonel, have a cigar?"

The colonel rose to his full height in his saddle and sternly looking at the general said: "General, you are my superior officer, but d—n your cigars," and rode away. The general and his staff officer looked upon this as quite a joke, and it was not long before this anecdote was related to and by every man in the ranks.

### THE GENERAL AND THE CAPTAIN.

When General Rosecrans rode out to review the troops, there was usually something of a pleasant as well as instructive character going on. Upon his appearance the welkin usually rang with the hearty cheers of the troops. When dressed in line the general occasionally passed along the front, scanning each man closely, noticing in an instant anything out of place in his dress. He always kept a sharp lookout

for his officers, holding them accountable for the conduct of the men. At one review he gave a forcible illustration of his ideas on the subject. He noticed a private whose knapsack was very much awry, and drew him from the ranks, calling at the same time for his captain, who at once approached. "Captain, I am sorry to see you don't know how to strap a knapsack on a soldier's back." "But I didn't do it, general." "Oh, you didn't? Well, hereafter you had better do it yourself, or see that it is done correctly by the private. I have nothing more to say to him. I shall hold you responsible sir, for the appearance of your men." "But I can't make them attend to these matters," said the officer. "Then, if you can't you had better leave the service."

Upon another occasion, General Rosecrans noticed a private without a canteen, but otherwise quite neatly arrayed. "Ah, here's a good soldier; all right, first rate, with one little exception. Good cloth and good arms; he marches and he drills and fights and eats. But he don't drink. That's queer; and I fear he won't hold out a pinch. March all day in the heat and dust, yet don't want to drink water. Rather afraid of a break-down here. Better have the canteens, boys, and well-filled, too." And he passed on, leaving a lesson and a smile.

## CHAPTER VII.

### CONCLUSION.

THE great old hero is dead, — the last of Ohio's grand quartet, Grant and Sherman, Sheridan and Rosecrans. As soldier, statesman and citizen, in whatever light he be regarded, the nobility of his character stands out, worthy of all praise and honor. Faith and justice, love of God and country were his ideals and he lived up to them to the last.

"Glory, not grief, our theme to-day!
The record of his life to sing
Who brought to clothe our common clay
The royal mantle of a king."

The deeds of the hero of Rich Hill, Carnifex Ferry, Iuka, Corinth, Stone River and Chickamauga will always brighten the pages of our country's history; and his life will ever stand forth in that same history as a bright, shining example of a loyal Catholic, whose eminence in the affairs of the nation did not lessen his faith, and whose faith did but increase and glorify his patriotism. Peace to his ashes, and gentle, eternal rest to his great soul!

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